

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendments, claims 1, 2 and 4 - 13 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 3 and claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 4 - 8 and 10 - 13 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and better conform to U.S. practice. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 9. The Substitute Specification only clarifies the Specification by inserting headings and paragraph numbers. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3 - 5 and 9 - 13 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 and claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because of informalities such as the lack of section headings. Applicants have included herewith a Substitute Specification which obviates this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner requested Applicants to furnish drawings to the present invention under 37 CFR 1.81(c). Applicants submit that eight (8) sheets of drawings were submitted with the application when originally filed on December 27, 2005. The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 U.S. National Phase application of PCT/CH2004/000402, filed June 28, 2004, which included eight (8) sheets of drawings.

Nonetheless, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants herewith enclose a copy of the above-mentioned eight (8) sheets of drawings previously submitted. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 6 – 8 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. The amendments to claims 6 – 8 renders this objection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 6 – 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by DE 29900646. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by

Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,423,248). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kaminski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,753,215). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Heine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,770). Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Henke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,462,383).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 moot. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is also allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the fact that the present application contains only allowed claims and all formal requirements have been met, it is submitted that the present application is now fully in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures (2)